

In re Application of NATHAN et al.
Application Serial No. 09/541,461

REMARKS

Claims 19-26 are pending in this application. Currently no claims stand allowed. The Office action rejects claims 19-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,360,265 to Falck et al. (*Falck*). The amendments to the claims submitted herein are intended to define applicants' invention more clearly and distinctly. New claim 26 depends from claim 21 and is similar to claim 20.

Applicants' amended claims clarify what has been emphasized in their previous responses to the Office: applicants' invention relates to an application-level gateway proxy firewall device performing both network address translation (NAT) and application-level filtering functions. In the prior art, these functions are handled by separate elements of an internal computer network. In applicants' invention the filtering of packets is accomplished in a manner that is transparent to a client in the internal network that is communicating with an external server. In contrast to applicants' claims, which are directed to the combination of the features of a NAT device and an application-level gateway device, *Falck* teaches the use of a NAT intermediate device *in place of* an H.323 multimedia proxy device. See *Falck* at col. 2, ll. 61-63, and col. 3, ll. 19-21.

Falck does not teach performing both network address translation *and* packet stream filtering at the same application-level gateway proxy server (independent claim 19) or proxy device (independent claims 22 and 24). The Office action argues otherwise, contending that *Falck* describes a NAT that "performs a firewall function, thereby filtering unwanted packets." Office Action, p. 4. However, as applicants' amended claims make clear, network address translation is performed at a *packet level* while "filtering" is performed *at a stream level*. *Falck* does not describe a proxy device having components that perform NAT at a packet level as well as filtering at a stream level. As applicants emphasized in their response to the previous Office

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action, "the term 'filtering' as used in applicants' claims is a precise one which does not encompass mere address translation. In applicants' specification, 'address translation . . . performed at a packet level' is contrasted with 'filtering . . . performed at a stream level.'" Response to Office Action, March 9, 2004, p. 3 (quoting Specification, p. 18).

Applicants reiterate that *Falck* does not teach the performance of proxy server filtering of a stream of packets in a manner that is transparent (i.e., invisible) to the client, an element of applicants' independent claims. The present Office action states that *Falck* "teaches that the network address translation is done within the NAT proxy, this proxy being separate from the client" and concludes that "network address translation done within the NAT is transparent to the client." Office Action, p. 4. However, though the NAT component may be *separate* from the client, it does not follow that the NAT component is necessarily *transparent* to the client, and nothing in *Falck* suggests that its NAT operates transparently to clients. In any event, applicants' claims do not specify that network address translation is performed transparently; rather, it is *packet stream filtering* that is performed transparently.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 19-25 be withdrawn and that claims 19-26 be allowed.

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CONCLUSION

The application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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